

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A biocompatible wound dressing, comprising:

a biocompatible pad shaped to conform to a wound site;

an air-tight seal removably adhered to said pad; ~~and~~

a negative pressure source in fluid communication with said pad; and

~~wherein said biocompatible pad is comprised of an ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic~~ removably connected to the wound-contacting surface of the pad and adapted to act as a scaffold to facilitate cellular growth from the wound through the ceramic.

3. (currently amended) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 2 ~~further~~ wherein the biocompatible pad comprises ~~comprising~~ an open-cell reticulated porous foam adhered to non-wound contacting surfaces of said ceramic.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 2, further comprising a flexible tube communicating between said pad and said negative pressure source.

6. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 5 further comprising a removable canister in fluid communication between said pad and said negative pressure source.

7. (currently amended) A biocompatible wound dressing comprising:

a pad comprised of a non-bioabsorbable substrate and an ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic, the pad being shaped to conform to a wound site, the ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic adapted to be absorbed or included by the wound, the ceramic being removably connected to the wound-contacting surface of the pad and adapted to allow cellular growth through the ceramic;

an air-tight seal removably adhered to said ~~ceramic~~ pad; and

a negative pressure source in fluid communication with said ceramic.

8. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 7 further comprising a flexible tube communicating between said pad and said negative pressure source.

9. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 8 further comprising a removable canister in fluid communication between said pad and said negative pressure source.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A biocompatible wound dressing comprising:

a pad comprised of a bioabsorbable or includable cell-growth enhancing matrix, shaped to conform to a wound site;

the bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix comprising porous, highly reticulated material formed into a plurality of sections, the matrix being adapted to contact the wound surface and to be absorbed or included by the wound;

an airtight seal removably adhered to said pad; and

a negative pressure source in fluid communication with said pad;

wherein the matrix is adapted to facilitate cellular growth from the wound through the matrix.

14. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 13 further comprising a removable canister in fluid communication between said pad and said negative pressure source.

15. (previously presented) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 14 further comprising a removable canister in fluid communication between said pad and said negative pressure source.

16. (new) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 13, wherein the substrate defines a plurality of holes remote from the cell-growth enhancing matrix.

17. (new) The biocompatible wound dressing of claim 13, further comprising:

a second pad comprised of a bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix, adapted to connect to the surface of the first pad opposite the wound-facing surface and to cover the first pad when the first pad is partially absorbed or included by the wound;

the bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix of the second pad comprising porous, highly reticulated material formed into a plurality of sections, the matrix being adapted to contact the wound surface and to be absorbed or included by the wound;

wherein the bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix of the second pad is adapted to facilitate cellular growth from the wound through the matrix.

18. (new) A biocompatible wound dressing, comprising:

a pad comprised of a non-bioabsorbable substrate, and a bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix removably coupled to the non-bioabsorbable substrate, the pad being shaped to conform to a wound site;

the cell-growth enhancing matrix comprising reticulated porous material formed into a plurality of sections and implanted into the substrate in the central portion of the pad, the matrix being adapted to contact the wound surface and to be absorbed or included by the wound;

the substrate defining a plurality of holes remote from the bioabsorbable cell-growth enhancing matrix;

an airtight seal removably adhered to the pad; and

a negative pressure source in fluid communication with the pad.